

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 4379

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, SG
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: SENEGAL ACTION PLAN

REF: STATE 141268

1. EMBASSY CONSIDERS DRAFT REPORT TRANSMITTED REFTEL GENERALLY VALID AND ENDORSES ITS CONCLUSIONS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD SUGGEST ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE FOR PART OF ONE SUBSECTION.

2. FOR SECTION A. (2) INSTEAD OF TERMINOLOGY, "DEFACTO ONE PARTY REGIME," BELIEVE FOLLOWING MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBES SITUATION: "ALTHOUGH POLITICAL POWER IS NOW HELD BY THE SENEGALESE SOCIALIST PARTY, LEGALLY RECOGNIZED OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE ACTIVE, AND OPERATE WITH CONSIDERABLE FREEDOM. RECENT LOCAL ELECTIONS WERE HOTLY CONTESTED. ONE MINORITY PARTY, THE PARTI DEMOCRATIQUE SENEGALAIS (PDS - SENEGALESE DEMOCRATIC PARTY) GAINED CONTROL OF TWO RURAL ASSEMBLIES IN NOVEMBER 1976. NEXT YEAR'S NATIONAL ELECTION IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN SENEGAL IS UNRESTRICTED, AND THERE ARE NO CONTROLS ON FOREIGN TRAVEL OR EMIGRATION. ALTHOUGH AT PRESENT, ONLY THREE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE OBTAINED THE LEGAL STANDING NECESSARY TO

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CONTEST ELECTIONS, FREEDOM OF ALL CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS IS GENERALLY OBSERVED."
DAVIS

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